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No. 9

# M.A.C.E. JOURNAL

*"Devoted Exclusively To The Atari Computer User"*



## FALL'S HARVEST OF REVIEWS

**Published by the Michigan Atari Computer Enthusiasts**



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Tom Sturza

Yes, being the President of M.A.C.E. has had it's UPS and DOWNS; but the User Group has survived and even improved in many areas.

I wish to express my appreciation to my fellow officers; without their hard work and dedication, M.A.C.E. would have ceased to exist! So a big THANK YOU goes to: Barb Franczyk, Burt Gregory, Jim Kennedy, Don Neff, Chuck Norris, Mike Olin, Chris Samuels, Charles Sibthorpe and Paul Wheeler!!!

The SYSOPS that run our BBSsystems were also greatly appreciated by both members and non-members alike. Another big THANK YOU goes to Doug Hise (MACE East), Sharie Middlebrook (MACE West) and Chuck Norris (the former MACE Superboard ST)!!!

And now for a few additional THANK YOUs to those special members who donated their time to M.A.C.E. throughout the past 12 months ... the 'TARICON II SIG, the leaders of the ST SIG, Kip Kiefer (assistant 8-bit Disk Librarian), and the people who: wrote articles for the Journal; retyped the best articles from other User Group newsletters; contributed to either the 8-bit or 16-bit Public Domain Disk Libraries; gave demos at M.A.C.E. meetings; uploaded files to our BBSsystems; and helped set up and take down the tables and chairs at M.A.C.E. meetings.

A special THANK YOU goes to our advertisers and to those who donated door prizes at Christmas and the Birthday Party! I also wish to recognize our sustaining advertisers, Sector One Computers and Rentertainment (now a part of the Basic Bits 'N' Bytes chain), for their continuous support of M.A.C.E.

If I've left anyone out, I apologize. So many people have contributed that I just can't identify

everyone by name. But there are two people I've purposely left for last - my wife, Kathy and my son, Steven. They have both put up with a lot since I became President. They have also helped with everything from hauling the Zenith beam, to seeing that the M.A.C.E. Journal got to the Post Office each month. I wish to THANK them both for their patience and understanding!

Also, I wish the best of luck to the newly elected officers! May the membership be very supportive of your efforts!!

And finally, to Kathy, "I am not running for any office this time ... divorce sounds too painful!!!!!!"

**TO ALL M.A.C.E.  
MEMBERS**

**THANKS  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**TOM STURZA  
PRESIDENT 1986-87**

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#### DISK SUBMISSIONS

Bring the disk to the monthly General Meeting or send to it to: MACE PO Box 2785, Southfield, Mi. 48037 Attn: Disk Librarian.

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Upload to any MACE BBS or send to the MACE Post Office Box Address. Journal Submissions should include text and program listings on disk and hardcopy. Submissions will be returned if stamped self-addressed mailer is supplied and will be handled with reasonable care. However, publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of artwork, photographs, or manuscripts.

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# MACE JOURNAL

October 1987  
Volume 7 No. 9

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## M.A.C.E. NEWS ITEMS

By Tom Sturza

### ST DISKETTES

Diskettes from the 16-bit (ST) Public Domain Library will now be sold for \$5 each (old price was \$6). Also, watch future M.A.C.E. Journals for "ST diskettes by mail", coming to our User Group in the very near future.

### M.A.C.E. EAST

The M.A.C.E. EAST BBSsystem has been taken down due to hardware problems. At this time we do not know when the equipment will be repaired or when the BBS will return to service. We apologize to our East side of town users for any inconvenience this may be causing.

### M.A.C.E. WEST

On October 1, 1987, the M.A.C.E. WEST 8-bit BBSsystem will be replaced by a ST BBSsystem. The new M.A.C.E. west BBS will serve both 8-bit and 16-bit callers, as well as, 300 and 1200 BAUD. The new BBSsystem will be using Michtron's BBS software.

### ATARI MAGIC SHOW

August 28-30, 1987, Southfield Hilton: Congratulations to M.A.G.I.C., G.A.G. and G.L.A.S.S. for a well organized and run ATARI Show!!!!

M.A.C.E. was pleased to have a User Group table at the Show. We gave out Fact Sheets and Membership Applications, and sold back issues of the M.A.C.E. Journal. We did not sell diskettes because our Constitution limits sales to members only. We did sell 23 Memberships at the Show and are beginning to see mail order Memberships at our P.O. Box.

ATARI Corp. was there with the new laser printers, MEGA ST's and the IBM compatible PC. Sandi Austin and Neil Harris, of ATARI, were at the Show and

participated in some of the seminars. They were also under the ATARI tent throughout the Show.

We got to talk with almost all of the people who attended the show (our table was in the hall leading to/from the Hotel Ballroom). Everyone seemed to be very pleased with the Show and glad that they had come! We heard many positive comments from the vendors, other User Groups, Neil & Sandi, and the three User Groups that sponsored the Show!!!

Again, congratulations to everyone who participated in the ATARI Magic Show ... it was great to be there!

### 8-BIT CATALOG DISKETTE

The catalog for the 8-bit Public Domain Disk Library is now available on one diskette (printed copies will no longer be used). M.A.C.E. members can purchase this diskette at meetings for \$2. Mail order requests will cost \$3. The Disk Librarian will exchange old copies of the catalog for new updated ones. We will print an announcement in the Journal whenever the 8-bit catalog gets updated. If you wish to exchange your catalog diskette by mail, it will cost you \$1 for postage and handling.

\*\*\*\*\*

IF you haven't reNEWed your MACE membership yet, STOP POKEing around. PEEK into your wallet or checkbook for \$20.00, and PRINT on the handy renewal FORm on the back PAGE. RESTORE our faith in you by mailing your dues to the P.O. Box address, or by paying at the NEXT General Meeting. Please NOTE the date in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label; it is your membership expiration date. SAVE time and possible ERROR by reNEWing now. IF you have alREADY taken care of this POINT, THEN thanks a lot! BYE



## NEW ST PRODUCTS

By Jim Kennedy

"BBS Express! ST" (Bulletin Board System)  
ICD, Inc.  
1220 Rock Street  
Rockford, IL 61101-1437  
(815) 968-2228  
Requires: 520ST/1040ST  
Recommended: Hard-drive  
\$79.95

"BBS Express! ST" was written by Keith Ledbetter, author of the BBS Express! and Express! Terminal programs that have become so popular. BBS Express! ST has: threaded message bases, up to 32 trackable surveys, Xmodem or Ymodem protocols, 40/80 column support, color/mono. operation, on-line programs and more! For more info., write to the above address.

"ProTablet ST" (graphics tablet)  
Quantum Microsystems, Inc. (QMI)  
P.O. Box 179  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
(315) 451-7747  
\$395.00 (17.5" x 11")

"ProTablet ST" was one of the many products shown by QMI at the ATARI MAGIC Show on August 29-31. The tablet will replace the mouse for nearly all programs & applications. With control up to 250 lines/inch, you can use it for: CAD (ie. Drafix, EasyDraw, CAD 3D), DEGAS, Publishing Partner and more! User-selectable drawing area up to 12" x 8". Tablet, pen, cable & driver included.

"ChartPak ST" (business graphics)  
ABACUS  
2201 Kalamazoo S.E.  
P.O. Box 7219  
Grand Rapids, MI 49510  
(616) 241-5510  
\$49.95

"ChartPak ST" is charting and graphing program that has professional results. It was designed to take full advantage of the ST GEM and is DEGAS compatible. You can edit, save and recall, then specify scaling, labeling and positioning. Other features include: statistical routines for avg., standard dev., least squares and forecasting. You may also import clip art from PaintPro files.

"SmartWatch" (internal clock)  
TransTech  
P.O. Box 880 668  
10509 S.D. Mission Rd., Ste. T  
San Diego, CA 92108  
(619) 283-9328  
\$25 (SmartWatch)  
\$15 for EZ-KIT (1040ST only)

"SmartWatch" is an internal clock sold as a component, not as a kit, with bundled software. You must install it and at your own risk. But for those with electronics knowledge, you may have this Dallas Semiconductor DS1216E, that fits under any ROM chip in your 520/1040ST. The software is Freeware and maybe obtained from: a club, BBS, GENIE or CompuServe. The EZ-KIT for the 1040ST saves having to cut a metal bracket.

"The STilt" (disk drive organizer)  
Ronsat Technologies, Inc.  
368 Lexington Drive  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089  
(312) 520-8003  
(312) 520-7812 (24 hr. BBS)  
\$29.95 (part #P-ST-0001)

"The STilt" is a durable flame retardant plastic that houses two disk drives under a monitor, and above the ST.

## NEW 8-BIT PRODUCTS

By Jim Kennedy

This column, like the ST New Products one, reports on what has been mailed to M.A.C.E. via our P.O. Box. We take no responsibility for the products in these columns, since we only report and don't "try out" each item. If you do write to these companies, please tell them where you saw it. Also, don't forget our advertisers in the M.A.C.E. Journal. If they have the item, do your business with them. That way if you need assistance after the sale, you can talk to a person face to face!

Well the summer has been a 'bit' slow for the 8-bit, so I only have a couple items this time.

"Dropzone" (game)  
"Solar Star" (game)  
microdaft  
19 Harbor Drive  
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849  
(201) 663-0202  
\$24.95 each

Release Date: Oct. 1, 1987  
Games shown at the ATARI MAGIC show!

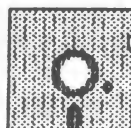
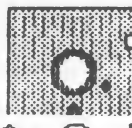
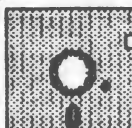
"Dropzone" and "Solar Star" are NEW 8-bit games that promise out of this world graphics, sound, etc.! In Dropzone, you have to rescue your men from a planet's surface, but not before the aliens try to blow you away! Who's better, you are them???

"Solar Star" is a breeze! All you have to do, is to recover as many crystals as possible from these grids. Oh! Almost forgot, the computer that used to protect them, now guards them! But you can do it, right!? Well you better, because I've got to take the trash out. So I guess that leaves you! It'll be a cinch, I'll check on you later.

"Super Turbo" (copy utility)  
Irata Verlag  
1272 Potter Dr.  
Colo Springs, CO 80909  
(303) 596-0135  
\$250.00

"Super Turbo" is more than just another copy program. Claiming to work with all XL/XE computers, it will copy protected software (as a BACK-UP) from; 8-bit, ST and IBM! For whichever computer you want to copy from, you will need two of the same disk drives. So, two 8-bit (to copy 8-bit), two ST (to copy ST) and so on.

You can also use an ST drive with your 8-bit. Imagine 720K with the ST DD/DD drive! You can transfer IBM programs from 5.25 to 3.5 format. Use it like an interface for your printer. Loading programs in 7 seconds and copying a disk in 27 seconds!

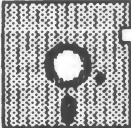

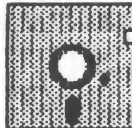


**M.A.C.E.**  
**PUBLIC DOMAIN**  
**8-BIT DISK LIBRARY**  
**MAIL ORDER INFO:**

First Diskette ... \$6.00 each  
Add'l Diskettes ... \$5.00 each  
Library Catalogue on diskette:  
\$2.50 (by mail)  
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## NEW SOFTWARE?????

Author Unknown

Article uploaded to M.A.C.E. WEST

Most of you already know that there is a lot more new, QUALITY software available for the Commodore computer line, then there is for our 8-bit ATARI computers. This article is being written to encourage our members (and the members of other User Groups) to write to the various software manufacturers and let them know what we think!

It is sad that many of the software companies that used to market ATARI 8-bit software, have stopped doing so. It is very important that we let these companies know that we are still interested in buying software for our 8-bit ATARIs! However, since there is nothing new, we are tired of patiently waiting for these companies to bring out new products. It is time for action!

There are many software companies that have stopped supporting the ATARI 8-bit line. But let's look at just one company - Electronic Arts. They have released many new titles for the Commodore. They have also acquired (absorbed) several other software manufacturers. A good example is Data East. A very popular arcade game, "Commando", is published by them. Yet, "Commando" is not available for ATARI 8-bit computers.

Of course there are many other companies selling software. THE ONLY WAY TO REACH THEM IS FOR EACH MEMBER TO WRITE TO EACH OF THEM! Aww! Gee Wizz? Do I have to do that?

YES! ... if you want new titles for the ATARI 8-bit computer line. These manufacturers must see that there is a true demand for their product. If there is no demand, there is no money to be made and that's that!

Collectively, we do have the power to cause this to happen. But, it must be a campaign that is REAL! Take a few minutes to write to your favorite software company. Let them know how you feel! Do it today!

But remember one additional thing - just writing is NOT enough! If ATARI 8-bit owners don't follow up on their letters by actually buying these products, the software manufacturers will know that they've been tricked again! They'll know that just a few people purchased their software and then the rest somehow got their hands on "pirated" copies.

The alternative is no new great software releases for our computers. Or even worse, no new software releases at all!

Here is the address of just one company:

ELECTRONIC ARTS  
1820 GATEWAY DRIVE  
SAN MATEO, CA 94404

If all User Groups promote this activity, we WILL see results!

So DO IT !! NOW!

We will all benefit.

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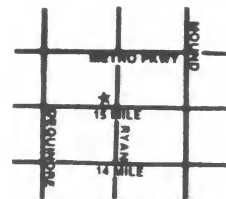
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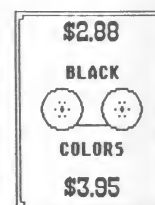
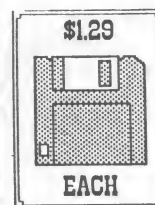
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## AMISXM10.BBS REVISITED

By Michael Olin  
M.A.C.E. Recording Secretary

### MACE Disk #C23

Nearly 2 years have gone by since I heard that two brave members of MACE had set about re-writing an improved version of MACE's 300 bps bulletin board program. Sharie Middlebrook and Mike Mitchell, then officers of the club, had taken it upon themselves to improve the code (remove the "spaghetti", as it were) and make the program run properly. In the months that followed, many bugs were found and fixed, some new features were added, and the final version (4.52pd) was released in May, 1986. The software package drew such interest that, with MACE's blessing, the program was released into the Public Domain and actually marketed in the Antic Software Catalog. Eventually the program ended up out on CompuServe where the authors supported it in the ATARI8 Forum.

So, the story might have ended here, and everyone should be happy, don't you think? Well, it seems that life is not all peaches and cream, bowls of cherries, etc. Due to some deadlines that were imposed upon our heroes (which are beyond the scope of this text,) the program was released before sufficient beta testing was performed. Sure as Murphy, a nasty but elusive flaw showed up in the message system code that could cause random crashing, totally irrecoverable. Needless to say, this was not very popular amongst the new crop of SYSOPs that had sprung up overnight.

In May 1987, one of the previous authors (Mike Mitchell) along with another daring adventurer (myself) set about fixing the program up a little more, and then going one step farther: we were determined to create documentation (!) for the program as well as cure the bugs. And this is exactly what we have done. The newest version of MACE's AMISXM10 BBSsystem (v5.0pd) was

released in late July, 1987, and is now available in the MACE 8-bit disk library. All the essential files are contained on one disk, along with 11 pages of "getting started" and "how to" information. (At long last, DOCUMENTATION FOR AMIS!)

We remain convinced that the AMIS BBSsystem is one of the most flexible communications systems available for the 8-bit ATARI. Since it is written in ATARI BASIC, it is easily altered to meet any SYSOP's needs. You are limited only by your own programming ability. There is something in the program for everyone, even if you have no plans to set up and operate a BBS. (Did you ever wonder how to make your modem "auto-answer"? How about random access to disk files in both READ and WRITE modes? It's all here!) Since a BBS uses just about every device that can possibly connect to an ATARI computer (with the exception of the data recorder...) we feel that this one system has more potential as a learning tool than most any other source.

We would like to thank some people/organizations for their help, written or otherwise: Jim Steinbrecher for his work on the modem handler; Tom Giese for his work in producing the original AMIS back in 1982; Canton Computer (a.k.a. Basic Bits 'N' Bytes of Canton) for loaning us some necessary hardware and for the quick repair of a sick disk drive; Phil Miller and Chris Samuels for running beta boards with next to no documentation; our wives for putting up with us, which was no small feat, (we suspect they may well have conspired to co-author "A Wife's Letter" in the August '87 issue of the Journal!); and all the persons (too numerous to name) who have helped us learn how to use our ATARIs in the past without whom this project would have failed.

(continued on page 13)

## NEWSLETTER SIG

### AND OTHER STUFF

by Gordon Totty

Other stuff first.

Some of you, those who read and remember anything that I write (hold that thought, I'll get back to it below), are wondering why this article is not about a book called Computer Wimp. The reason is that I did not get to it yet, but haven't forgotten. I read in spurts, get tired of it, and give it up for a while. This wimp isn't reading much, lately.

I have been playing a golden oldie arcade game, QIX. I really enjoy this one. Like some of the kinds of puzzles that many of us enjoy, this game is very easy to play or explain, but very hard to beat. If you are not familiar with it, in QIX you fence off pieces of the playing area while dodging moving objects that can "kill" your player/cursor. You score points by successfully fencing off pieces of the area. When 75% or more of the screen is fenced off, a new screen appears and you start over, except that the dodging becomes more difficult due to increased speed and number of "opponents". That is basically all there is to it, a very simple concept.

Beware. QIX is addictive! For any score you achieve, a little voice inside you says, "This is a very easy game. You can beat that score." So, if you are like me, you try. Before you know it, another 30 or 40 minutes have gone by; it is time to go to bed if you want to be sharp at work the next day. You feel a fleeting sense of guilt because the piece you were going to write for the MACE Journal isn't even started. And the voice says, "Just one more time ..."

I wonder if some fellow named Rubik had anything to do with the design of QIX. I like it and recommend it, if you come across it (the cube, too). Thinking of the infamous cube makes me wonder what a three dimensional game of QIX would be

like. Well, don't wait for somebody to write one for the eight bit line!

I found QIX on a closeout sale for about \$5.00 in the Canton branch of Basic Bits 'n Bytes. It was well worth it. Buy it before it is too late.

There have been a lot of sales of software for the eight bit Atari line lately, and my allowance is all spent on it. I have mixed emotions about this. I love the bargains, but I worry about what it means. "The party's over, my friend"?

I am tired of articles about the end of the eight bit line: "Is The 8-Bit Dead?", "RIP 8-Bit!", etc. Of course it is dead. Except for in my home. And yours, maybe. This is why I go into a buying frenzy at these low priced bargains. Even if some of the stuff did not get great reviews (e.g. Fooblitzky), if it is cheap enough, I'll buy it only because there may be nothing (well, darn little) new coming out for my machine. Infocom has added Fooblitzky to their low priced list, and while it was still on local shelves for about \$40 I bought it direct from Infocom for less than half that price. Now, I have to save it until my boy reaches age 14 (he's 9 now). I'm a sucker for a bargain, especially when it seems to be the only game in town.

I was once talking to a former Controller for the Coleco toy company. He was telling me that he planned to buy three of the Coleco Adam computers for less than \$300 each. I think that price included some software, the computer, a tape drive, and a printer if I correctly remember the big box in the toy stores. He planned to use one, and keep two in his basement as backups. He was that convinced that it was a "great" computer, being considerably under-rated by the

public.

I sort of feel that way about the Atari 130XE. Sure, I know that the ST line is much better, and better supported. The IBM PC-XT(286) that I use at work, with Data Ease, Word Perfect, Multi Plan, Microsoft Chart, and a hard drive amazes me. However, even jet pilots have been known to enjoy tinkering with and flying the old open cockpit biplanes. For a different analogy, my 130XE is like a Model-T Ford. It ain't fancy, but it gets me there.

One of the things I enjoy using my home computer for is writing articles for the MACE Journal. I feel it is like putting something back into the hobby I have gotten so much out of. Except, lately, it has been getting harder and harder to find the time to do as much of this as I like to. Also, I haven't been able to put much time into refining each submission, reworking it two or three times until it is just right. You almost get "stream of consciousness" stuff from me; my fingers do the thinking. So I have been asking myself, "Is the result worth the effort?" I'd like YOU to answer that; please give me some feedback: constructive or otherwise. Write to the Journal, or look me up at a meeting (I attend nearly all of them). Feedback ... please.

I did get some feedback of a sort. A bit of a piece I wrote about our Australian brothers got reprinted in the Australian Atari Gazette. This is the part of the article where I get around to the first part of the title, where newsletters were mentioned. The Melbourne Atari Computer Enthusiasts had 232 "financial members" in June. I guess that means dues paying members. They took in \$2230 in June, including \$1106 from disk sales. Payments in June were \$1550, including \$673 for magazine printing and \$555 for disks. All amounts are in Australian dollars (\$1A=\$0.63US). I mention this only for encouragement. As I have indicated before, smaller groups than ours seem to exist and remain healthy.

Jim Kennedy gave me some newsletters to read this past month that I had never seen before. I remain amazed at how many Atari user groups exist! Which makes me wonder where the software support went. I have heard us (yes "us") blamed for causing the lack of interest by excessive pirating. I tend not to believe this, not because I am unaware of the pirating problem, but because I do not see how that problem singles out the Atari community. It is my impression, subjective and based only on my observations and stories I have heard, that no one pirates software like some of the Apple community! Yet, their support is thriving, as ever. Maybe their much larger user base supports more theft without harming the suppliers.

Bytown Bytes, newsletter of the National Capital (sic) Atari Users' Group, Ottawa, Canada is very nice looking. It is printed on a laser printer, runs 32 to 36 pages, and is published nine times a year. This group has 260 ST members and 50 XE members. (They may have other 8-bit members.) The April issue included a review of magazines available for the ST line. Bob Deskin looked at eleven magazines that provide varying degrees of ST coverage. Though he did not specify any clear choice (it depends on what you want), he appeared to favor COMPUTE!'s Atari ST Disk and Magazine over the others. Reviews of Mindscape's Balance of Power (Chris Crawford rides again) for the ST and SSI's Warship (Gary Grigsby) for the 8-bit were very well written, better than I do, and made me want to own both products. Other ST reviews included TRIMbase, Zoomracks II, and Magic Sac.

The Brainwave Gazette, ten legal sized pages published every two months by the Atari User Club Brainwave, Wiesbaden, W. Germany, is now being sent to us. It is in English and contains short reviews, entirely dedicated to the ST.

LACE, the Layton Atari Computer Enthusiasts, North Clearfield, Utah has also just joined our list of user group friends. I still do not know how many user groups there are, but there are more



than I ever imagined.

A recent newsletter of the Atari Computer Enthusiasts, New South Wales, Australia, described their latest disk library addition. For \$10 (Australian) they are selling a double sided disk of Turbo Basic, a public domain language from Holland. You can also download this superior basic from Comp-U-Serve's Atari SIG. As of the date of the Australian release, Turbo Basic would only work on the XL and the XE, but a version for the 400/800 was expected soon. Versus Atari Basic, Turbo Basic offers 42 more commands, 22 more functions, three times greater speed, and it uses 1.6K less memory. It also comes with a compiler which runs programs ten to fifteen times as fast as normal. Can you beat a bargain like that? By the way, even if you do not program, you can load Turbo Basic and run Atari Basic programs three times faster.

This newsletter also included an optical illusion demo. For me, these little demos are like peanuts; I can't leave them be. So, I have reproduced this one for you below. By the way, if you run it and let the screen go to the attract mode it adds to the effect. No, folks, I did not sit in front of it that long, staring open-mouthed in utter fascination! I was called to the phone during the run.

```
10 GRAPHICS 23:POKE 710,10:POKE 709
   ,4:POKE 708,14
20 COLOR 1
30 PLOT 40,80:DRAWTO 52,75:DRAWTO 52,
   65:DRAWTO 64,60:DRAWTO 64,50:
   DRAWTO 76,45:DRAWTO 76,35:DRAWTO
   88,30
40 DRAWTO 88,20:POKE 765,1:POSITION
   40,40:GOSUB 1000:POSITION 40,80:
   GOSUB 1000
50 DRAWTO 70,95:DRAWTO 118,75:DRAWTO
   118,35:DRAWTO 88,20
60 PLOT 118,45:POSITION 106,50:GOSUB
   1000:POSITION 106,60:GOSUB 1000:
   PLOT 106,60
70 POSITION 94,65:GOSUB 1000:POSITION
   94,75:GOSUB 1000:PLOT 94,75
80 POSITION 82,80:GOSUB 1000:POSITION
   82,90:GOSUB 1000
```

```
90 PLOT 118,45:DRAWTO 88,30:PLOT 106,
   50:DRAWTO 76,35:PLOT 106,60:DRAWTO
   76,45
100 PLOT 94,65:DRAWTO 64,50:PLOT 94,
   75:DRAWTO 64,60:PLOT 82,80:DRAWTO
   52,65
101 PLOT 82,90:DRAWTO 52,75
110 COLOR 2:POKE 765,2:PLOT 89,21:
   POSITION 89,29:GOSUB 1000:PLOT 89,
   29: POSITION 117,43:GOSUB 1000
120 PLOT 77,36:POSITION 77,44:GOSUB
   1000:PLOT 77,44:POSITION 105,58:
   GOSUB 1000
130 PLOT 65,51:POSITION 65,59:GOSUB
   1000:PLOT 65,59:POSITION 93,73:
   GOSUB 1000
140 PLOT 53,66:POSITION 53,74:GOSUB
   1000:PLOT 53,74:POSITION 81,88:
   GOSUB 1000
999 GOTO 999
1000 XIO 18,#6,0,0,"S":RETURN
```

The Pokey Press was sent to us by the Atari Computer Club of the Palm Beaches, Boynton Beach, Florida. In the June/July 1987 issue, Jim Woodward discusses The Electronics Boutique, a new chain of computer stores that is opening in the shopping malls. Have you been to one yet? I have been to the branches at Twelve Oaks and at Fairlane, and am impressed with the amount of stuff they stock for the 8-bit line. (Sorry, I did not check the ST selections. When I look at that stuff I get an itchy check book, and my wife gets nervous.) Their prices seem reasonable, and they have a lot of closeout bargains. According to Jim Woodward, who used to work for them, they have over 60 stores now, mostly on the east coast, and are expanding into the midwest and California. Jim complained that they have dropped Atari 8-bit hardware from their line (eventually software too, I suppose). At the Fairlane branch, I met our own Freddy Kandah. Perhaps Fred can shed (honest, no rhyming was intended) some more light on future plans of The Software Botique.

The Pokey Press is a slender publication, including lots of reprints. Generally, however, I was impressed with the quality of the publication and rate it as above average though, like us, not equal to the best.

Another POKEY newsletter comes to us from the Western New York Atari Users' Group of Buffalo, New York.

Last month I was also privileged to read the June, 1987 issue of the Puget Sound Atari News from Tacoma, Washington. This is a combined newsletter, representing seven user groups from the state of Washington. The groups are: B.R.A.C.E., KC-Ace (that stands for Kitsap County, not Kansas City), "R"-Atari, S\*P\*A\*C\*E, StarBase, STUDIO, and T.R.A.C.E. This is an interesting publishing concept. In this case, it works very well as the final product did not look like a scrapbook or "patch 'n paste" job. They put out 32 packed pages of information. In May they printed 875 copies. There are seven editors, one for each member group, one coordinator, and one advertising manager. The coordinator belongs to S\*P\*A\*C\*E, I think, as copy is supposed to be submitted to this group. This is not the only combined newsletter, and may not even be the best one, but it looked good to me. This may represent the future of user group newsletters. I envision some of these becoming good enough to compete with Antic and A.N.A.L.O.G., and maybe these publications might benefit by forming publishing partnerships with user groups. Big visions, huh?

The Portland Atari Club newsletter of July/August reprinted "Servicing the XL/XE Power Supply" by our very own Don Neff. Congratulations, Don. Now, why don't you sell those good Oregonians some disks.

(concluded from page 9)

So what are you waiting for? Run, don't walk, right over to the library corner and ask the Disk Librarian for your copy of AMISXM10.BBS and DO enjoy it! We certainly have!

Michael Olin, CIS 72030,556  
Mike Mitchell, CIS 76656,101

~~~~~  
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~~~~~

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**NOTICE** ~~ If you bought my Hayes 300 Baud Modem at the last swap~night, please contact me;

Ken Van Nellen at

**445-7319**

or

**821-5706**  
~~~~~

[Editor's Note: M.A.C.E. received the following letter requesting help from ATARI owners in the U.S.A. If any members or other User Groups can be of assistance, we're sure that your generosity would be greatly appreciated!]

Malbork, 25 June 1987

Dear Friends !

My name is Zbigniew. I am writing to you from Poland. Excuse my imperfect english. The address of your club I received last year from my friend, who was in your country. I am writing, because I will do nothing without your help.

I am an electric engineer. I am interested in hardware and software of microcomputers. We are twenty six young persons, who are interested in it. We write the programmes in BASIC, FORTRAN, PASCAL and assemblers: Z-80, 8080, 8086. We are learning programming in C language. Alas, the access to the required literature and any 16-bits computers is very difficult.

We meet together one time in week. We have three 8-bits computers: two TIMEX 2048 and one ATARI 800XL. We made our software. We dream of the floppy disk drive and our printer. ( We succeeded in printing this letter using the borrowed printer.) But our greatest dream is ATARI ST or IBM PC XT Compatible.

We have a great request to make. If you can somehow help us, do it please! Perhaps you have a computer's equipment with which one is not used long ago. Send it to us. We are able to repair it by ourselves.

Please, if you can to give some financial help, do it on after-mentioned score:

-----  
Bank PKO SA o/Gdansk, Sopot, Pl.Konstytucji 3 Maja 1, POLAND  
Mr Zbigniew Dziekonski, 82-200 Malbork, Osiedle XX-lecia 18A/2  
No 795-4-58812  
-----

We set one's hopes on you only. If we will have the 16-bits computer, then we can to repay making the software for you.

We would like to enter into correspondence with you. This is our address:

Mr Z.Dziekonski, 82-200 Malbork, POLAND  
Osiedle XX-lecia PRL 18A/2

We are waiting for the message from you.

Yours very truly

Zbigniew & friends.



## ACCESS CHARGES & YOU!

Compiled by Jim Kennedy

The following is a reprint of a letter from Telenet (the PC Pursuit people) being sent out to all of its customers. This letter is a follow-up letter to the one reprinted in the August, 1987 M.A.C.E. Journal. This is being presented here to inform all of our members as to a recent F.C.C. proposal that could affect not only PC Pursuit, but a host of other on-line services as well, including: CompuServe, GENie, other databases, and information services. Following the letter there is a list of the four F.C.C. Commissioners whom you may write to.

Telenet  
A US Sprint Company

Telenet Communications Corp.  
12490 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 22096  
(703) 689-6000

August 12, 1987

Dear PC Enthusiast:

Six weeks ago we wrote to many of you about the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) proposal to extend Carrier Access Charges to Telenet and other Enhanced Service providers. In that letter, and in subsequent conversations with many of you, we promised to provide additional information when the FCC published its official notice -- which occurred on July 17th.

We have enclosed for you (1) a copy of the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) and (2) a paper that both analyzes the NPRM as it affects PC users and suggests steps that you can take to help defeat the access charge proposal, thus ensuring the continued availability of low-cost information and data

communications services.

Access charges would affect all Interstate data communications utilizing local dial access to reach a public on-line computer service, e.g. a database or electronic mail service, home banking/shopping service, or videotex service. Access charges would also apply to services such as PC Pursuit, provided by a value-added network (VAN) like Telenet, that utilize local dial access. These charges would add approximately \$4.50 per hour to the cost of connections involving only dial-in access (e.g., a PC dialing into the Telenet network to reach a database host), and would add approximately \$7 to \$9 per hour to the cost of connections involving both dial-in and dial-out access (such as PC Pursuit, for PC to PC communications). Further, unlike most communications prices, access charges have no discounts for evening and weekend hours. Services currently priced at a flat monthly rate would have to be repriced on an hourly basis under access charges.

For those of you who are current PC Pursuit subscribers, access charges would require Telenet to increase its prices (currently, a flat monthly rate of \$25) to reflect the \$7 or \$9 per-hour access charge. Of course, we expect that the significantly higher prices would dampen demand for the service, so it is not clear whether Telenet could continue to make PC Pursuit available even for those users willing to pay the higher prices.

PC users who subscribe to database services such as The Source, CompuServe, or Quantum would incur access charges on those services of approximately \$4.50 per hour -- effectively doubling the current rate for some services.

THIS NEED NOT OCCUR. We can defeat the access charge proposal with your help. By writing a letter to the

Chairman of the FCC and sending copies to the other Commissioners, the Secretary, the Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau, and your Congressional representatives, you can affect the outcome of this issue. Both the FCC and the Congress are receptive to your input. Moreover, they need to hear from you in order to assess the impact of this proposal.

Your letter should emphasize how access charges would affect you. Tell the FCC what database, bulletin board, or data communications services you use today and for what purposes, what your monthly usage level is, what you pay now, and how access charges (at approximately \$4.50 per hour of use for database host access, and twice that for PC Pursuit) would impact your use of these services.

Our analysis paper includes the names and addresses of the relevant parties to whom you can write. As indicated above, it is perfectly acceptable for you to write one letter to the Chairman of the F.C.C. and a copy to all other parties. Names and addresses of U.S. Senators are included here; for the name of your Congressional representative, contact your local library or Chamber of Commerce. Telenet would appreciate having a blind copy of your letter for use in our lobbying efforts, and we have enclosed a business reply envelope for your convenience in sending us one.

Please note that the FCC has extended the due dates for comments and reply comments in this proceeding to September 24 and October 26, respectively. You need not wait for these dates, however. Please continue to access PC Pursuit's Net Exchange BBS for updates on the FCC access charge proposal using the following sign-on procedure: @C(sp)PURSUIT,YOUR ID,YOUR PASSWORD or dial 703-689-3561 with your modem.

Write today. Your letter can make the difference! With your help, this proposal can be defeated!

Sincerely,

Paolo L. Guidi  
President

-----  
**NAMES & ADDRESSES:**

Letters should be addressed to:

The Honorable Dennis Patrick, Chairman  
(202) 632-6600  
Mr. William J. Tricarico; the Chief  
Common Carrier Bureau  
Mr. Gerald Brock  
Commissioner James Quello  
Commissioner Mimi Weyforth Dawson  
Commissioner Patricia Diaz Dennis

Addresses for the above is the same:  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554  
\*\*\*> On the letter, indicate:  
"RE: CC Docket 87-215".

In addition, it is strongly recommended that you send copies of your comments/replies and/or any correspondence to the FCC on this matter to your Congressman, your two Senators, and the Chairman of the House and Senate Telecommunications Subcommittees. The subcommittee chairmen are:

The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and  
Finance  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Our Michigan Senators are:  
Carl M. Levin (Dem.)  
Donald W. Reigle (Dem.)  
Write c/o: U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Also, send a copy to:  
Telenet Regulatory Affairs Dept.  
12490 Sunrise Valley Dr.  
Reston, VA 22096

# mmmmm . . . MUSINGS ABOUT MICHIGAN MIDI MUSIC

By Mike Gillie

[The following article was first published in the Michigan Commodore Users Group newsletter called "SPRITE", in the May, 1987 issue. Copyright 1987. Permission granted to reprint as long as a copy of the publication is sent to the author at P.O. Box 23, Southfield, MI 48037. The author is the SYSOP of the COSMIC STOMPER BBS - (313) 547-0440.]

From time to time (or maybe just one time) I will be writing about my discoveries in the world of MIDI (the Music Instrument Digital Interface). A MIDI interface is available for most popular personal computers. This past November (1986) I slowly began the process of configuring a MIDI system.

I will be presenting MIDI from an amateur/hobbyist perspective. An attempt will be made to convey accurate information. For more information, I would refer the reader to the book "MIDI for Musicians" by Craig Anderton (I purchased my copy at MicroWorld). I have been a subscriber to Electronic Musician (formerly Polyphony magazine) for over 10 years, and have found it helpful. Keyboard is another magazine that covers MIDI.

A computer can serve many purposes in a MIDI system because a computer can be programmed. I am using "Music Studio" from Activision to run the computer. "Music Studio" will work with an Amiga or an ATARI ST. "Music Studio" turns the computer into a Sequencer/Recorder.

A sequencer is a device that provides a sequence of musical notes. It is a sort of electronic player piano roll. A recorder is like a tape recorder. It "records" the notes played on the keyboard.

"Music Studio" does a good job of being a sequencer, however it does a poor job of being a recorder. "Music Studio"

can "record" the notes although it won't record the duration of the note. There are other software products that will do this.

"Music Studio" will present you with a musical staff. You can place the notes on the staff using a mouse (pointing device). On an ATARI ST you can play 3 voices at once and on the Amiga 4 voices. When "Music Studio" is used with MIDI it can control 15 channels of information (and many voices).

The Channel Number, Program Number and range of notes can be assigned to each of the 15 "instruments" Music Studio uses. Each of the 15 instruments can be named. An instrument on the MIDI network can be programmed to recognize only a certain channel. You could have electronic drums on Channel 3 and an electronic piano on Channel 4.

Each device would only recognize data on it's channel. An electronic piano may have many different sounds available. This can be changed by switching to a different program. The computer, acting as a sequencer, can automatically change the programs (sounds) during the song.

In order to use "Music Studio" with MIDI, you need some kind of musical instrument. Musical hardware is more expensive than computer hardware because the market is smaller. At the low end of the market is the Casio CZ-101. "Music Studio" has some files that are programmed for this instrument.

The Casio CZ-101 has a mini-keyboard and is a multi-timbral instrument. "Multi-timbral" means that it can play many timbres (sounds/instruments) at the same time. The Casio CZ-101 can play four different instruments at the same time. The nice thing about MIDI is that you can now devise a musical system using



components. An interesting device is the Yamaha FB-01, which is in the same price range as the Casio CZ-101. The Yamaha FB-01 has no keyboard! However, it can play eight instruments at the same time. The FB-01 is ideal for people who can't play the keyboard very well or who need a second synthesizer.

If you have a Casio CZ-101 (or any other MIDI device with a keyboard), it can control the FB-01, as well as itself, giving 12 voices of music. The computer along with Music Studio can control both machines.

I'll postpone a review of the FB-01 until a future issue. If you are considering getting into MIDI, take a good look at the Yamaha FB-01, which I consider a better value than the Casio CZ-101.

Until next time, hmmmm...Option?

\*\*\*\*\*

# UNCLASSIFIED

WANTED: Your original artwork for the MACE Journal. All submissions will be accepted and given the fullest attention by me and the Editorial staff. All artwork used will receive the proper attention and recognition it deserves. For consideration see me, or any MACE Officer.  
MACE Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

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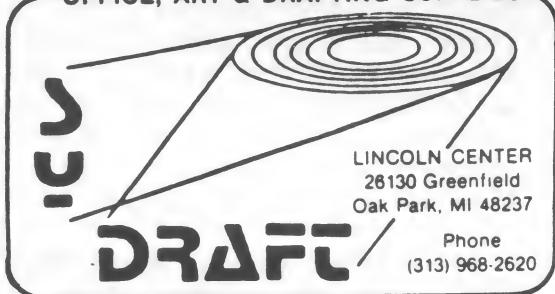
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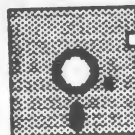
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# mmmmm ... MUSINGS ABOUT MICHIGAN MIDI MUSIC

By Mike Gillie

[Copyright 1987. Permission granted to reprint as long as a copy of the original publication is sent to the author at P.O. Box 23, Southfield MI, 48037. Mr. Gillie is SYSOP of the Cosmic Stomper BBS at (313) 547-0440.]

In this column, I will elaborate on the Yamaha FB-01 FM Sound Generator. The retail price is \$345.00. The dimensions are approximately 8 1/2" Wide x 2" High x 10 3/4" Deep. It weighs a mere 4 1/2 pounds. It is possible to mount two FB-01's side by side in a 19" rack adaptor.

The FB-01 can produce 8 notes simultaneously. It is a multi-timbral instrument. This means that it can play many instruments at the same time. It can play eight different one note instruments, or one eight note instrument, as well as any combination in between. The FB-01 is an 8 voice instrument. Two FB-01's can be combined to produce a 16 voice instrument.

As stated in a previous 'mmmmm ...' column, the FB-01 has no keyboard. This is because it is meant to be controlled from a computer or another keyboard, or both, via a MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) network.

The FB-01 is designed to offer a lot of features. Usually with a synthesizer one must program a lot of parameters to get the desired sound. The FB-01 comes with 240 pre-programmed sounds. There are an additional 96 slots available for user programmed sounds. In order to keep costs down, a computer is required to program additional sounds. However the 96 slots are available to move pre-programmed sounds into.

This would be useful because a program such as Music Studio would only be able to access one bank of 48 sounds at once. The sounds are organized into 7

banks of 48 sounds (5 banks are pre-programmed). The sounds are grouped into categories such as Piano, Electric Piano, Other Keyboard, Brass, Strings, Woodwinds, Synthesizer, Bass, Percussion, Organ, Plucked and Sound Effects.

In one Bank of sounds are sounds that are compatible with the Yamaha CX5M computer. There is another category called Omnibus, which seems to be a mixture of instruments from all the categories. It is unusual in a synthesizer to have so many sounds easily available. The way to think about this instrument is as a sound palette. Instead of color, you select timbre.

The front of the FB-01 has eight buttons and a 16 character Liquid Crystal Display. The keys allow you to move instruments around. You can choose which instrument is on which MIDI channel. The FB-01 has an interesting feature called 'setup'. There are four pre-programmed, with another 16 user programmable. The FB-01 can be set up many different ways. You could allocate four voices for a Piano, one voice for Bass, one voice for a Tom-Tom, one voice for a snare and the last voice for a Sitar. This configuration can be saved in memory.

The volume of each instrument can be adjusted. The voice can be placed in the left channel or the right channel, or both. Unfortunately you can't position the instrument finer in the stereo field. The FB-01 can adjust the octave range plus or minus 2 Octaves. Instruments can be detuned as well. There is also a Low Frequency Oscillator.

Another useful feature is the ability to set note ranges for each instrument/voice. This means that if you were using the FB-01 with a keyboard, you could 'zone' the keyboard. You could designate the lower octave of the keyboard to be a bass sound and the

(continued on page 20)

**GENERAL MEETING  
MINUTES 8/18/87**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Recording Secretary Mike Olin who explained that President Tom Sturza had been called out of town on business.

There was a demonstration of Flight Simulator II for the ST showing the various levels of play and the built in demonstration. This program accepts alternate scenery disks which accurately simulate various major airports around the world.

Mike called on Sharie Middlebrook to discuss the pros and cons of the proposal to convert the MACE West BBSsystem to run on an ST. Sharie described her plan to support both 8-bit and ST callers equally, and noted that most of the hardware and software are being loaned to the club free of charge from a local vendor in exchange for a log-on message indicating their contribution to the club. Sharie and Mike then entertained questions from the audience.

There was a demonstration of ChessMaster 2000 on the ST. This highly rated version can be played by two players, or the computer versus one player, or no players where the computer plays against itself in a sort of "demo" mode.

Mike called on Jim Kennedy, Corresponding Secretary, to discuss some information he had captured on CompuServe regarding the current proposed changes in FCC rulings relating to the various electronic information systems. CompuServe projects that, if the new proposals pass, the connect-time rate to increase by as much as \$5/hour. Jim noted that there are several addresses that persons can write to to express their opinions, including the writer's respective Representatives and Senators. A member noted that CompuServe had posted a sample letter, and that it should be used as a guideline for individual letters, not used verbatim as the FCC can consider these as repeats of the same letter thus carrying less weight with the investigating committee.

There was a demonstration of Rambrant on the 8-bit Atari. This excellent drawing program by Antic is enhanced by Antic's Solid Object Module which performs shading and texturing functions.

Mike reminded members that the annual election of new officers would be held in September, and urged all members to attend this important meeting.

Michael Olin  
MACE Rec. Sec'y  
8/27/87

(concluded from page 19)

higher octaves to be a harpsicord. The boundary of the zones can overlap.

The rear panel of the FB-01 has two quarter inch jacks for left and right audio. The unit comes with adaptors to RCA phono jacks so you can hook it up to your stereo. There are also three MIDI jacks; IN; THRU; and OUT.

The bottom line, is how does it sound? The answer is great! The Music Studio program doesn't take the instrument to it's full potential. It sounds better using a keyboard to control it. This is because the FB-01 recognizes velocity from a keyboard. The only way Music Studio puts out velocity is to 'accent' notes. This will only work if the normal notes are less than full volume.

The FB-01 would be of most use to computer owners who are serious about sound. The FB-01 is the best value on the market. The inexpensive (\$100 to \$200) samplers do not give quality sound. The manual for the FB-01 is quite good. It is 8 1/2 x 11 paper with 53 pages in English. All MIDI commands are documented. There is sufficient information for the adventurous programmer. Until next Time, hnnnnnnnn...



# NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

By Paul R. Wheeler

Well it looks like this will be the last month I'll be filling this page as your Membership Chairman but after five years at this position I feel I am entitled to retirement and it is time for another member to take over the position. It has been a meaningful five years and while it did take up a lot of my time, I was also learning every step of the way.

Were you one of the fortunate people that attended the Atari Magic Show at the Southfield Hilton last month? It was a very good Atarifest and Magic should be congratulated for their efforts. Atari did show up with Mega 4 computers with laser printers and PCs but I didn't see any other of their new products scheduled for release this year. There were plenty of vendor displays and more important, it was well attended by Artarians from all over the midwest everyday of the 3 day show. The MACE table was well-manned by all of your officers and it was nice to see so many familiar faces strolling by with, I might add, a happy face. I'll leave it to the other officers and members to fill you in on the other details of the show but applause should be given to MAGIC for a well organized and eventful show.

Computers are a lot younger than I am and all through my life I have been told that the world would be a lot better place if there was just one language and we all could talk on a one to one basis. Did you ever stop to count the number of languages for the computer? I bet the total would exceed the number of people languages. Every month we read of another

language being introduced for the computers and the beat goes on.... The 8 bit has a fairly stable BASIC, (Rev.A,B,or C), MAC-65, Action!, and the standards of assembly, forth, pascal, etc., with their many variations and now the flood is on for the 16 bit machines. In BASIC alone I can count at least six types, the ST-BASIC, the freebie that came with the ST, is now on its way to being the loser in this field. GFA Basic (Michtron) is making rapid progress in gaining the attention of ST'ers. It is very fast and easy to learn and use. Another, just being introduced, is dBASIC (DTACK Grounded Inc.) which is faster but too new to be rated for it's ease of use and learning abilities. The ST-SIG is now in the process of discussing various languages for the ST. Last month four 'C' languages were presented by its members and other languages will be covered in future months. Back to the original idea, wouldn't it be nice if there was only one language for computers so all PC'ers could talk to each other on a one to one basis? Bye bye ATASII or is it bye bye ASCII?

It is not only languages that are plentiful but also the types of machines that use them. We are just getting use to the 16 bit being in the HPC field and already there is talk of the 32 bit entering it. When will it stop.... Since my short appearance in computing, there a lot of things that appeared which I didn't approve of. Atari, after realizing disk drives were in, kept on producing the tape cassette machines (remember them?). Insisted on producing single

density drives until the 1050 with its enhanced density (1-1/2) while all the other manufacturers were producing true double density drives. These drives were made more expensive because they had to be compatible with Atari's single and the density+half (which no one used). Now Atari is finally coming out with a double density drive for the 8 bit. You would think from all this a lesson should have been learned but instead of coming out with a single type drive for the ST, Atari came out with two, the singled and double sided drives. Just think if they had come out with just the one drive (double-sided) how much easier it would have been for the software producers, not to mention you the end user. Already the price of the single sided drives have dropped and Atari must be trying to get rid of them by installing them in the 520 FM where you will have no choice. Manufacturers are already advertising upgrades for the single drives at a \$120+ price tag. There are a lot of programs out that require the double drives but the software manufacturers can't support two different versions so they must resort to the one that all drives can use, usually the inferior version of the program and again it is the end users that must suffer. My advice to all potential ST buyers is to steer away from the single sided drives. It will be worth the extra money to purchase the double-sided drive and avoid added expense down the road not to mention the added convenience and the savings of disk purchases, by using the double sided drives. PRW

# Flying The ST<sup>(c)</sup>

by Allen P. Bargen

commentary on the world of Atari ST computers

**Who** can say whether machines have feelings. The Sanctum Sanctorum ( my place of retreat from the sanity that surrounds me ) is bustling with electronic activity tonight. Hard drives spin as they access their databases of information pouring yet another kilobyte or two to the hungry mouths of their connected modems. The perpetual whirling of the drives is somehow strangely soothing.

Now it's no secret that there is the occasional AT machine in the sanctum, we run the BBS on one of them. They sit beside the ST and whirl quietly while they watch the ST screen, and ponder. I'm sure they try to move the St just a little further away from their side at night, when all is still. Smugness is an AT trait after all.

Only modestly interested in what is happening with that "GEM" screen on the ST, they watch as the familiar "clunk" of a 3-1/2" disk being inserted into the ST drive attracts their attention.

**PC-DITTO** the label reads. So this it it eh ? ( Canadians like to say EH a lot ) So this is the program that is supposed to allow the ST to run MS-DOS software on the ST. Hmmm.

"cough" ... I'm sure I heard one of the AT's do that, so I read the label aloud once again. This program allows the user to run many of the MS-DOS based programs on the ST. " Not possible " you say ? Let's find out.

Popping the disk once more into the drive, and clicking on the mouse, the main screen comes up very quickly instructing you to insert your DOS disk in Drive A. After following these instructions, hitting return causes the drive to start up and in a scant few

seconds, the familiar IBM DOS Screen comes up with a request to enter the current Date and time. You can quickly bypass these by hitting ENTER ( our RETURN key ). The drive spins again, and soon you will see the standard A> prompt in typical DOS format. I swear that when this symbol appeared on the screen, that the AT screen leaned a bit closer to get a better look. Nah, machines don't have feelings.

## Pause for reflection ...

I am impressed. The speed is much slower, that's noticeable right off the bat, but by golly, it is there blinking at me. WOW. Time to see what we have here in more detail. A call for DIR gets you a listing of all files on the disk, and again I notice that the response time is slower than normal, but it gives you exactly the same screen as on the AT.

Time to move into some of the more complex programs to see how they perform. First off, Qmodem SST, one of the finest Modem programs for the MS-DOS machines ran exceptionally well, but the slowness of the screen annoyed me, especially when viewing the ANSI graphics while connected to System EX-10 Canada. ( free plug for my BBS - don't forget the New number is now (519) 972-9000. ) Qmodem uses a lot of pop-up windows, and it is fairer to say that they crawled up. Still, the program does work without problem on the ST. It was obvious to me that the program would benefit greatly from a hard drive, or a RAM disk, since these would at least eliminate the disk access time.

**Lotus 1-2-3** was next in line to see how it would perform on the ST. Imagine that. Sorry Lotus corp, but it ran like a charm. This program is the Prince of spreadsheets. Powerful, huge, and incredibly sophisticated.

I'm sure it was at this point, that I saw the small beads of perspiration form on the AT's screen.

Numerous other programs also ran without difficulty on the Atari.

We found that graphics dependent programs ran unbearably slow, whereas programs such as LOTUS ran lightning quick when it came time to recalculate, or perform any math function. I began to like the PC-DITTO program more and more, and suppressed an evil urge to call the local PC-Users group president over for a demonstration.

## My final comment on this topic...

If you REALLY want to run IBM programs all the time, do yourself a favour, and go buy an IBM or at least a clone. Until PC-Ditto can operate at WARP speed, I can't imagine why you would want to use it for any extended periods. The new Atari PC clone will cost you a mere \$600 US or so complete, so why not consider that route ?

To say that I am impressed that you can run MS-DOS programs on an St is an understatement. Perhaps I am spoiled having the best of both IBM and ATARI worlds, so don't expect me to use MS-DOS programs on my ST. Do however, expect me to run Daily, many of the very fine, sophisticated programs now available for the ST.

For those of you who will insist on buying PC-Ditto, I say.. Go for it ! You will most certainly like what it can do, and... you're going to really upset a lot of your IBM friends with it.... enjoy your ST, I certainly do...

Allen P. Bargen

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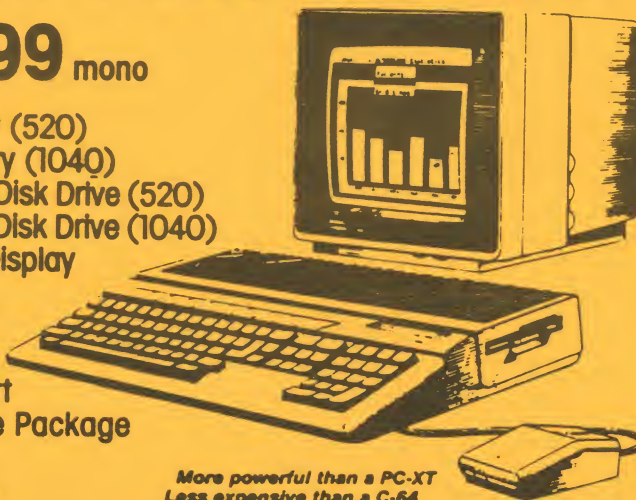
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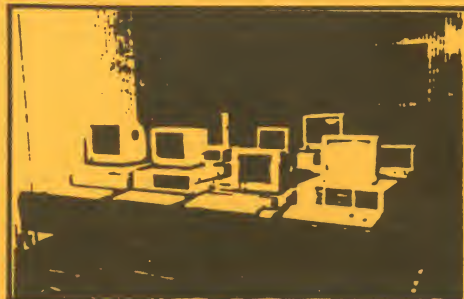
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